United Nations S/2015/530

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2015

Original: English

Fourth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2169 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2169 (2014), the Security Council requested that I report every three months on progress made towards fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The present report covers key developments related to Iraq and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the issuance of my third report, dated 1 May 2015 (S/2015/305).

II. Summary of key political developments pertaining to Iraq

A. Internal developments

2. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq continued its efforts to counter the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). However, ISIL and associated armed groups demonstrated the capacity to undertake asymmetric attacks, which hindered the Government's efforts to retake and hold territory. ISIL also continued to inflict civilian casualties, cause massive displacement and perpetrate systematic human rights violations that may amount to war crimes and/or crimes against humanity.

3. The political leadership of Iraq continued to explore means of promoting inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation, while the Council of Representatives continued to work to adopt key legislation identified in the national political agreement and ministerial programme. The Government of Iraq also took measures to address the immediate needs of the growing number of internally displaced persons, as well as measures for the eventual stabilization and reconstruction of areas retaken from ISIL.

4. Baghdad and Erbil continued to engage in political dialogue to address differences relating to the implementation of their agreement on energy exports and revenue-sharing. However, differences in interpreting the agreement persisted during the reporting period.

5. Regional and international partners continued to support the Government of Iraq in its fight against ISIL. After the fall of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar

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governorate, on 17 May, the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and the international community expedited their efforts in support of the five-point plan of the Government of Iraq from 19 May, which entails: (a) accelerating support to the tribal fighters of Anbar province to fight ISIL; (b) strengthening Iraqi Army divisions, particularly those based in Anbar that have been depleted from more than 18 months of fighting; (c) restructuring the Anbar police force to hold territory retaken from ISIL; (d) calling for international contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-endorsed funding mechanism to facilitate the immediate stabilization of cleared areas; and (e) ensuring that all forces participating in the recapture of Anbar governorate operate under the command and control of the Prime Minister.

6. The political leadership of Iraq also continued to support local governments in taking greater responsibility in recapturing territory under ISIL control. On 24 April, the Anbar Provincial Council announced Prime Minister Al-Abadi's decision to open a recruitment centre in Habbaniya, Anbar, to enable local Sunni volunteers to more easily join the Government's military campaign against ISIL. By 8 May, 1,000 additional recruits had enlisted, through the Habbaniya recruitment centre, to fight ISIL alongside the Iraqi security forces and the popular mobilization forces, which have proved a critical component in the fight. On 16 June, the Ministry of Interior announced the formation of a 10,000-member force comprised of local Anbaris to aid military operations to fully recapture Anbar.

7. The Government of Iraq also took steps to professionalize Iraq's military and security institutions. On 21 May, the Anbar Provincial Council announced an investigation into the circumstances that led to the withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers from Ramadi. On 26 May, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution to terminate the employment of members of the armed forces who had withdrawn from their posts and to hold them to account. In June, the Ministry of Interior announced the replacement of 35 senior officials, in order to strengthen law and order and enhance accountability, and Prime Minister Al-Abadi's office announced the retirement of the Army Chief of Staff, General Zebari.

B. Political situation

8. To advance national reconciliation, the three presidencies held regular meetings during the reporting period, with the aim of reaching consensus on a cohesive strategy to strengthen national unity and promote peace and inclusion. Meanwhile, the office of the President made efforts to consolidate national reconciliation initiatives into a unified national reconciliation plan that would include measures to expedite the implementation of the national political agreement and ministerial programme.

9. Leadership changes at the governorate level were effected during the reporting period. On 26 May, the Diyala Provincial Council elected a new Governor, Muthana Tamimi, the head of the Badr Organization in the governorate. On 28 May, the Council of Representatives voted to dismiss the Ninewa Governor, Atheel al-Nujaifi, from his post. The motion for his dismissal was submitted to the Council of Representatives by the Prime Minister's office. The legality of both moves is being contested by Sunni political actors.

10. The Legislature made gradual, albeit limited, progress in advancing the legislative reform package identified in the national political agreement. In May, the Council of Representatives concluded its second reading of the national guard law and the constitutionally mandated federal Supreme Court bill. The Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Salim al-Jabouri, urged parliamentarians to reach consensus on both laws during the legislative recess that commenced on 31 May. On 5 July, the Council of Representatives conducted the first readings of the Justice and Accountability and Banning of the Baath Party Act, as well as the General Amnesty law, which had been endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 16 June.

11. On 24 June, the Sunni Jurisprudence (*Fiqh*) Council rejected the decision by Prime Minister Al-Abadi to appoint Sheikh Abdulatif Humaim as the acting head of the Sunni Endowment, stating that the decision contravened the Sunni Endowment Law, which enshrines the *Fiqh* Council's legal right to nominate the "appropriate personality" to head the Sunni Endowment. A number of other Sunni representatives, on the other hand, expressed support for this appointment.

12. On 26 May, the Council of Ministers endorsed a special emergency plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which calls for measures to address the special needs of women and girls in conflict situations and to allow their return to their communities and their involvement in post-conflict reconstruction.

13. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq took decisions to address the new wave of mass displacement following the ISIL offensive on Ramadi. On 19 May, the Council of Representatives established an emergency committee to investigate complaints that displaced persons fleeing Ramadi had faced delays and restrictions on their movements at checkpoints at the Bzebez Bridge, approximately 30 kilometres south-west of Baghdad. On 23 May, Prime Minister Al-Abadi instructed Government institutions to facilitate the transfer and housing of displaced persons to Baghdad, Babylon and the Kurdistan region of Iraq, while taking the necessary measures to ensure security.

14. The Government of Iraq continued to take measures for the eventual stabilization and reconstruction of areas retaken from ISIL. On 19 May, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution to expedite the training of local police to restore civilian responsibility for security and rule of law in recaptured areas. On 2 June, the Council of Ministers directed the Ministry of Finance to disburse 50 billion Iraqi dinars ($42 million) to the Ministry of Environment to clear recaptured areas of mines and other explosive remnants.

15. Tensions rose between Baghdad and Erbil in the light of their differing views over the implementation of the 2 December agreement on energy exports and revenue-sharing. On 7 May, Prime Minister Al-Abadi reiterated the federal Government's commitment to make payments to the Kurdistan Regional Government, in accordance with the federal budget law. The same day, the Kurdistan Regional Government confirmed that Erbil had received a payment of 543 billion Iraqi dinars ($445 million) from Baghdad for the month of April and reaffirmed its commitment to the agreement. However, it also noted continued shortfalls in budgetary allocation payments. Erbil and Baghdad subsequently engaged in political dialogue to resolve their diverging views regarding implementation progress. In May, Oil Minister Adel Abdul Mehdi held meetings with the Kurdistan Regional President, Massoud Barzani, and the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, respectively, as well as the

Energy and Oil Committee of the Council of Representatives, to discuss ways to bridge differences of opinion between Baghdad and Erbil over budgetary allocations. The Kurdistan Regional Government temporarily suspended oil exports, citing technical difficulties, on 1 June but resumed them shortly. However, reports in the last week of June indicated that Erbil has temporarily halted oil exports through the State Oil Marketing Organization. At the time of reporting, the Kurdistan Regional Government had proposed to send two delegations to Baghdad to discuss the issues.

16. On 20 May, the Kurdistan Regional Parliament approved 20 members who had been nominated by the five main political parties in the Kurdistan region of Iraq to the Constitutional Review Committee established on 5 May to review the draft Kurdistan Regional Constitution. Four smaller parties, the Kurdistan Communist Party, the Kurdistan Socialist Democratic Party, the Islamic Movement and the Third Direction, declined to nominate one member to jointly represent them. The law requires that the Constitutional Review Committee comprise 21 members. Meanwhile, political parties continued to discuss provisions of the draft Constitution with a view to reaching agreement on the term of office of President Barzani, which expires in August 2015. On 13 June, President Barzani announced that the presidential election would be held on 20 August.

17. On 17 May, President Barzani signed the law on the promotion and protection of minorities, adopted in April by the Kurdistan Regional Parliament. The law constitutes a significant step towards ensuring the equal participation of minorities in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in all areas of public life and their protection from discrimination by enshrining their indispensable civil, political, economic and cultural rights.

C. Security

18. The security situation in Iraq remained highly volatile throughout the reporting period. The conflict and armed violence were largely concentrated in contested areas in Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. Initially, the Government's nationwide military operations focused on consolidating territorial gains already made against ISIL and on gradually recovering additional areas. In Anbar, pro-Government forces continued their operations to dislodge ISIL from contested areas or those under ISIL control, mainly in and around Ramadi, Fallujah and Garma. On 13 May, ISIL launched a renewed offensive on Ramadi, the capital of Anbar, taking full control on 17 May. On 24 May, ISIL expanded its offensive, launching a series of attacks on Iraqi security force positions in Haditha and al-Baghdadi. On 28 May, ISIL made further territorial gains in Anbar when it took control of the Al-Waleed Iraqi-Syrian border crossing, a week after it had seized control of the Al-Tanaf crossing on the Syrian side of the border. On 26 May, the Government of Iraq announced that the Iraqi security forces would begin a counteroffensive to retake Ramadi. In an attempt to hinder the counteroffensive, ISIL attempted to cut off water supplies to the Khalidiyah and Habbaniya areas to the east of Ramadi by closing the Ramadi Warrar Dam gates on 2 June.

19. In Salah al-Din, armed clashes between pro-Government forces and ISIL intensified throughout the reporting period but no significant territorial gains were made by either side. Pro-Government forces retained control of the city of Tikrit and

surrounding areas. Between 28 May and 2 June, ISIL conducted daily attacks against pro-Government forces in the south-west of Samarra and in the vicinity of areas under Government control between Balad and Tikrit. On 30 May, pro-Government forces launched a ground operation to expel ISIL elements from the perimeter of the Baiji refinery and surrounding areas, registering successes. However, ISIL continued to maintain control over supply routes from unliberated areas of Salah al-Din to Mosul and other areas in northern Iraq.

20. Peshmerga forces, supported by popular mobilization forces and international coalition air assets, maintained pressure on ISIL positions in Sinjar, Ninewa, and across the north-west of the governorate. In southern Kirkuk, the Peshmerga maintained control over areas recaptured from ISIL, including the Khabaz oilfield and strategic road junctions.

21. During the reporting period, Baghdad continued to be afflicted by acts of terrorism, such as targeted killings and kidnappings, sectarian violence and the use of improvised explosive devices against civilians. On 8 May, a car bomb explosion and four improvised explosive devices killed 24 civilians and wounded 67 around Karrada district. Among the casualties were Shi'ite pilgrims preparing for the commemoration of the death of Imam Mousa al-Kazim. On 14 May, riots in the district of Adhamiya resulted in the Sunni Endowment building being set on fire. Resolute action by the Government prevented further escalation. On 28 May, vehicle-borne and suicide bomb attacks on the Sheraton and Babylon Hotels in Karrada killed 12 civilians and wounded 27. The month of May witnessed a total number of five clashes between the Iraqi security forces and ISIL in Baghdad. During the month of June, a total of 11 clashes and nine car bomb explosions were recorded in several areas of the city.

22. During the reporting period, the international coalition continued to support the Government's military campaign against ISIL. Its air strikes targeted ISIL positions around Mosul and surrounding districts, Mount Sinjar, south of Kirkuk city, and around Baiji in Salah al-Din. International coalition air strikes in Anbar increased in mid-May following the fall of Ramadi to ISIL. The United States of America also announced that it would send up to 450 military advisers to Iraq to strengthen the training and equipping of local forces fighting ISIL, notably in Anbar.

D. Regional and international developments

23. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq continued to largely successfully pursue its objective of strengthening Iraq's relations within the region and globally. Their efforts were aimed at securing the necessary political, military and humanitarian support to address the consequences emerging from the ISIL threat, distancing Iraq from regional tensions and pursuing an agenda of national reconciliation.

24. On 12 May, President Fuad Masum paid his first official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by the Iraqi Ministers of Commerce, Tourism and Environment. Senior Iranian officials expressed support to Iraq in the fight against ISIL and underscored mutual security interests, while agreeing to broaden economic and humanitarian cooperation. The Iranian Minister of Defence, Hossein Dehghan, visited Baghdad on 18 May. On 17 June, Prime Minister Al-Abadi paid an official

visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran with a view to deepening bilateral ties and enhancing security cooperation against ISIL.

25. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Khalid Attiyah, paid a two-day official visit to Baghdad on 28 May to discuss bilateral relations and the need for increased and joint efforts by the international community in the fight against terrorism. The Minister confirmed that Qatar fully supports the efforts by the Government of Iraq to combat terrorism and announced steps to reopen its Embassy in Baghdad, which Iraqi officials welcomed. Saudi Arabia is also finalizing preparations to reopen its Embassy in Baghdad. The new United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Iraq presented his credentials to the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs on 7 June.

26. During a visit to Moscow on 21 May, the Russian Federation offered Prime Minister Al-Abadi military aid to help to counter ISIL. The two countries also announced their intent to further develop ties in all spheres, including in the military-technical, economic, and oil and gas sectors.

27. From 9 to 16 June, Speaker al-Jabouri visited the United States, where he held meetings with senior officials to discuss Iraq's efforts to fight ISIL, as well as the support of the United States to the Government of Iraq in the context of their Strategic Framework Agreement. I met Speaker al-Jabouri on 16 June in New York, at which time we discussed the challenges facing the country and the continuous support of the United Nations to the people and Government of Iraq.

28. President Barzani also visited the United States in May, meeting senior officials to discuss the overall humanitarian and security situation in Iraq and international support to the Peshmerga forces in the fight against ISIL. In addition, governorate-level delegations from Kirkuk and Ninewa visited the United States during the reporting period as part of an outreach strategy to rally international support for the fight against ISIL.

29. On 1 June, the Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Kurdistan Regional Government received the credentials of the new Kuwaiti Consul General to Erbil, who opened Kuwait's new Consulate General in the region. On 8 June, President Barzani visited Kuwait to discuss the military campaign against ISIL, as well as trade relations and the establishment of commercial flights. President Barzani later travelled to the United Arab Emirates to discuss trade relations between that country and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

30. At the international level, on 2 June, Iraq co-hosted, together with France and the United States, the meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL held in Paris to review progress in the struggle to degrade and defeat ISIL and to address recent developments. Some 24 delegations at the ministerial level took part in the meeting. Coalition partners reiterated the imperative for a lasting political solution to the Iraqi crisis and impressed on the Government of Iraq the need to promote reform and reconciliation and to ensure respect for human rights and accountability when carrying out military operations. Coalition partners agreed to endorse the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization established by UNDP in coordination with the Government of Iraq to enable the gradual return of internally displaced persons to liberated areas.

III. Update on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations country team

A. Political activities

31. UNAMI continued to work in close partnership with the Government of Iraq to support its efforts to strengthen inclusive political dialogue and governance. My newly appointed Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, met a wide range of interlocutors to follow up on the implementation of the national political agreement and ministerial programme and to assess the status and means of moving forward an inclusive national reconciliation process.

32. My Special Representative also reached out to Iraq's religious leaders as part of his efforts to promote religious tolerance, peace, national reconciliation and the countering of extremist and violent ideology. In June, he met Mohammed Ishaq al-Fayyad and Sayed Muqtada al-Sadr in Najaf and paid a visit to the Abu Hanifa mosque in Baghdad, where he met Sheikh Ahmad Hassan al-Taha.

33. Following the ISIL offensive on Ramadi, my Special Representative met Prime Minister Al-Abadi and Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq to stress the need to increase efforts to strengthen national unity behind the military campaign against ISIL and to provide a safe haven and humanitarian aid to the displaced. On 16 May, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs attended an emergency meeting on the situation in Anbar convened by Speaker al-Jabouri and attended by Anbar Governor Suhaib al-Rawi and Provincial Council members, to discuss the deterioration of security in Anbar and the Government's response.

34. In order to facilitate greater cooperation on national reconciliation, countering ISIL, humanitarian response and the promotion of economic growth, my Special Representative held frequent meetings with Iraq's leadership and travelled to the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Kirkuk between 23 and 25 May. In Erbil, he met Prime Minister Barzani, the Speaker of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, Mohammed Sadiq, and Kurdistan Regional Deputy President Kosrat Rasul Ali to urge greater cooperation and continued political dialogue between the federal and regional governments. In Sulaymaniya, he met the leaders of the political parties Gorran and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. In Kirkuk, he met Governor Najmaldin Kareem and Arab and Turkmen representatives to discuss the situation of displaced persons in the governorate and the prevailing security situation.

35. To promote support and cooperation with the Government of Iraq, my Special Representative also engaged representatives of Iraq's neighbours and regional States. On 27 and 28 May, he attended, on my behalf, the forty-second session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Kuwait. In the margins of the conference, he sought support from key regional and international countries to help Iraq to counter ISIL, provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced, strengthen national unity and enhance Iraq's standing within the regional community. In addition, as part of his regional outreach to neighbouring countries, my Special Representative visited Jordan on 4 May, the Islamic Republic of Iran on 5 June, and the United Arab Emirates on 11 June to discuss the overall situation in Iraq and the regional dimension of the ISIL threat. On 2 June, he attended the meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, held in Paris, where he briefed Coalition partners on the latest developments in Iraq,

the United Nations response and assistance, and ways that the international community could strengthen its support to the Government of Iraq.

36. UNAMI continued its efforts to promote women's rights in Iraq in support of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), urging renewed political commitment and action, as well as monitoring, coordination and mainstreaming of all efforts. On 10 and 11 May, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs attended a regional conference on the role of women in countering extremism and terrorism, organized by Iraqi Al-Amal Association in collaboration with UNAMI and governmental and non-governmental partners. From 26 to 29 April, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, visited Iraq, which generated momentum for the Iraqi authorities to address the issue of sexual violence in conflict, including through legislative and policy reform and the provision of psychosocial support services to survivors.

37. UNAMI continued to engage civil society and non-governmental organizations on their role in social cohesion, the political process and national reconciliation. On 2 May, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs attended the third annual conference of non-governmental organizations, hosted by the head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, Ammar al-Hakim, where my Deputy Special Representative highlighted the important role of civil advocacy in the legislative process.

38. On 25 June, my Deputy Special Representative visited the Iraqi Writers' Union to express solidarity and condemn a 17 June attack on the Union's premises by unknown gunmen. On 27 June, my Deputy Special Representative reaffirmed the United Nations commitment to freedom of the press in Iraq during the ceremony held by the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate to commemorate National Press Day.

B. Electoral assistance

39. In line with the recommendations of the electoral needs assessment mission deployed to Iraq from 13 to 29 March, UNAMI continued its engagement with the Council of Representatives on electoral-related activities, including in strengthening its oversight functions and reviewing existing electoral laws. In May, UNAMI participated in the regular meetings of the joint legal committee of the Council of Representatives and Council of Ministers that reviewed and proposed amendments to the law for electing governorate, district and subdistrict councils. Following a series of meetings, the joint committee prepared the proposed draft law, which was submitted on 15 May to the Council of Representatives for tabling and plenary discussions.

40. The Independent High Electoral Commission undertook to promote and enhance its interaction with the newly created Kurdistan Independent High Electoral Commission and to define the roles and responsibilities of the two institutions. UNAMI encouraged that such discussions be held in conformity with constitutional and legal parameters and in consultation with the Council of Representatives and the Kurdistan Regional Parliament.

41. UNAMI also continued to advise the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission on technical and policy issues. In line with its strategic plan, the Commission focused on the ongoing biometric voter

registration process, which has expanded to cover a total of 15 out of 18 governorates, with the process commencing in Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah in early May and the opening of registration centres in Diyala in mid-June. There is no biometric voter registration in Anbar and Ninewa owing to the prevailing security conditions. The Commission prioritized increasing voter participation through outreach and addressing technical issues relating to the capture of voters' fingerprints and other data.

42. On 13 June, the presidency of the Kurdistan region issued a decree setting 20 August 2015 as the date for the election of the Kurdistan Regional President. Following the announcement, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Kurdistan Independent High Electoral Commission separately addressed the media, stating that the new commission lacks the capacity to organize the election as scheduled and that it needs more time and budgetary resources to establish its offices and to organize the election.

C. Human rights developments and activities

43. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing armed conflict in Iraq and to be subjected to acts of violence and terrorism. Since my previous report, from 1 May to 27 June, UNAMI recorded a minimum number of 3,268 civilian casualties (1,158 killed and 2,110 wounded), bringing total civilian casualties in 2015 to at least 11,996 (3,823 killed and 8,173 wounded).

44. UNAMI continues to receive numerous reports of violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated against civilians in an apparent widespread and systematic manner. The reports describe attacks directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, extrajudicial killings, abductions, rape and other forms of sexual violence, forced recruitment of children, wanton destruction and looting of civilian property, and denial of fundamental rights and freedoms. Vulnerable groups continue to be subjected to gross violations of their basic human rights. Approximately 3,500 women and children, and some men, predominantly from the Yezidi community but also from other minority ethnic and religious communities, continue to be held in captivity by ISIL.

45. On 29 June, the Higher Judicial Council confirmed that the trials of 28 persons charged with offences related to the Camp Speicher massacre would commence at the Central Criminal Court on 8 July.

46. Freedom of expression remains under threat owing to many factors, including the lack of security for journalists. In this regard, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed an agreement with the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate on 3 May on the occasion of the celebrations of World Press Freedom Day in Baghdad to enhance the capacities of Iraqi journalists in conflict-sensitive reporting.

47. Following the fall of Ramadi in May, reports were received alleging the abduction and killing of a significant number of civilians and members of the Iraqi security forces. On 24 May, ISIL murdered between 16 and 19 tribal members in Haditha, western Anbar, because of their purported cooperation with Iraqi security forces. Such reports conform to ISIL's pattern of targeting persons suspected of

being allied with the Government of Iraq or perceived to be opposed to its ideology. On the same date, a wave of explosions struck Baquba City and Baladruz, in Diyala governorate, causing a number of civilian casualties. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attacks in Baladruz, which targeted the Shi'ite community.

48. With the security situation deteriorating throughout Iraq, particularly in Anbar governorate, grave violations against children continued to be documented. The Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict, co-chaired by UNAMI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), documented 15 incidents of violations against children in May and June, with the caveat that the United Nations has noted a decrease in the number of reported incidents owing to lack of access to affected populations and increased displacement. Killing and maiming continued to be the most documented violation (7 out of the 15 documented violations), with 10 cases of child casualties (6 killed and 4 wounded).

49. Forced recruitment by ISIL, particularly of children, appears to have increased during the reporting period. On 11 May, ISIL fighters visited secondary schools in eastern Mosul, instructing pupils to pledge allegiance to the group. On 23 May, ISIL announced at schools and universities that all male students were to join ISIL after the completion of their exams. Reports also indicate that ISIL forcibly recruited significant numbers of children in Anbar governorate. Reportedly, children also continue to be within the ranks of the popular mobilization forces in conflict areas, as well as in Baghdad and Basra.

50. The ability of civilians to access safety and humanitarian assistance continues to be of grave concern, particularly in areas under ISIL control. Civilians are severely punished for attempting to flee ISIL territory. On 7 May, a 31-year-old man was shot in the head in Mosul for allegedly having forged documents to assist residents to leave the city. The next day, a 24-year-old Yezidi woman was killed by ISIL while trying to escape captivity in Sinjar district, Ninewa. On 23 May, ISIL ordered that no residents be permitted to leave Mosul.

51. Basic and fundamental freedoms continue to be restricted by ISIL. In mid-May, ISIL issued rules for residents of Mosul to follow during the month of Ramadan, including a restriction on women leaving their homes between dawn and sunset. On 17 May, the male residents of Mosul were instructed to grow beards and shave moustaches. Later in May, they were reportedly told to adopt an Afghan-style of dress (*shalwar kamiz*). It appears that the purpose of these measures is to make it more difficult to distinguish ISIL combatants from civilians.

52. UNAMI also continued to receive reports alleging that pro-Government armed groups and militias are perpetrating violations and abuses of human rights. Since the beginning of May, Shi'ite militias have been establishing checkpoints in the area, harassing and assaulting Kurdish drivers and passengers. On 5 May, three Kurdish lorry drivers were killed at a checkpoint manned by Shi'ite militias in Khanaqin district, Diyala governorate. In early June, a video was posted on social media purporting to show members of a Shi'ite militia (Imam Ali Brigades) in Garma, north-east of Fallujah, burning the body of a man hanging by his feet, who had been accused by the perpetrators of being a member of ISIL.

53. Diyala governorate has seen a steady increase in attacks targeting members of the Sunni Arab community. May marked the height of such attacks, with at least 22 separate verified incidents, including at least 28 killings and 13 abductions. In

the majority of incidents, perpetrators remain unidentified and no arrests have been made. On 11 May, at least 20 Sunni Arab residents of Baladruz subdistrict, Diyala, were detained by armed men, some of whom are believed to be members of the Iraqi security forces and militia groups. The vehicles used by the perpetrators appeared to be the same as those previously used by pro-Government forces in the area, mounted with loudspeakers through which Sunni residents were warned to leave. At least 10 bodies were later found in Muqdadiya, Diyala, reportedly including some of those who had been taken from their homes. During May, a well-known Sunni businessman was abducted by unidentified gunmen in the city of Baquba and an adviser to the Minister of Defence was killed after unidentified gunmen attacked his car.

D. Camp New Iraq and Camp Hurriya

54. UNAMI continues to monitor the human rights and humanitarian situation of the residents of Camp Hurriya and to facilitate solutions to camp management issues between the Government of Iraq and representatives of the residents.

55. The United Nations assisted the Government of Iraq, through the office of my Special Adviser for the Relocation of Residents Outside of Iraq, Jane Holl Lute, to seek durable solutions for the residents through resettlement, consular and humanitarian channels. At the time of issuance of the present report, 653 individuals had been relocated outside of Iraq, of whom 30 left for Albania through an independent channel, 124 were relocated through consular readmission to nine countries (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 465 were relocated through humanitarian admission to four countries (Albania, Italy, Switzerland and the United States) and 34 were resettled to five countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom). In addition to these cases, 84 individuals from the temporary transit location have been accepted by four countries and are awaiting departure from Iraq. A total of 1,119 requests remain pending with 18 countries through the humanitarian, resettlement and consular streams. A total of 2,459 individuals remain in Iraq, of whom 2,454 reside in Camp Hurriya and 5 are accommodated in Baghdad.

56. The relocation figures mentioned above capture first countries of arrival of those people relocated outside of Iraq. In some cases, individuals moved on to third countries after their initial relocation, specifically from Albania. A total of 6 relocated to Finland, 18 to the United States, 1 to France, 2 to Norway and 17 to the United Kingdom. Despite this progress, the painfully slow process of relocation perpetuates problems on the ground. During the reporting period, UNAMI received several official interventions, notably from the Government of Iraq, to impress upon the international community the need to speed up the relocation of Camp Hurriya residents.

E. Humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development

57. More than 8.2 million people across Iraq, or nearly 25 per cent of the country's population, are estimated to require humanitarian assistance, including over 3 million internally displaced persons living in over 3,000 locations. Nearly half of

all displaced persons are children. This is a staggering increase of more than 400 per cent in less than a year, making this humanitarian crisis one of the most rapidly unfolding in the world. Since 8 April, over 290,000 people have been internally displaced from Ramadi district. An estimated 4.4 million people are in need of food assistance, 7.8 million people require essential health-care services and 4.1 million are in critical need of access to safe water and sanitation. Health-care services are stretched to breaking point in many communities and the beginning of a public health emergency is already evident. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that 249,656 Syrian refugees are currently in Iraq, of whom 93,838 live within 10 camps in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

58. Under the leadership of my Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations and its partners have continued to provide life-saving assistance under the level 3 emergency, reaching on average 1.5 million internally displaced persons each month. The World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have delivered life-saving assistance through the rapid response mechanism to 1.02 million people, primarily in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Baghdad, Karbala and Babil governorates. UNHCR and partners have continued to monitor checkpoints to assist civilians and have assessed the needs of tens of thousands internally displaced persons fleeing conflict.

59. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre, jointly supported by the United Nations in Iraq and the Government of Iraq, has continued to coordinate first-line responses to the displaced, including in Abu Ghraib and Amiriyat al Fallujah and at Bzebez Bridge. In May, the Centre facilitated joint contingency-planning training for Anbar, Diyala, Salah al-Din and Baghdad governorates. As a result of the training, the Anbar governorate emergency cell was sufficiently prepared to direct displaced persons fleeing the ISIL offensive on Ramadi to locations where they could be assisted. Following extensive advocacy by the Centre, the office of the Prime Minister instructed relevant ministries and departments on 23 May to lift restrictions on the movement of displaced persons from Ramadi at the Bzebez Bridge. The Joint Crisis Centre of the Kurdistan Regional Government was officially inaugurated on 17 May.

60. During the reporting period, major efforts were made through the cluster system to support the most vulnerable. Emergency assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations boosted support to cereal crop production, horticulture and livestock herding. Under the education cluster, UNICEF completed 28 prefabricated and 44 tented schools in two governorates of Iraq and finalized plans to rehabilitate 217 schools that had previously served as shelters for internally displaced persons, while UNESCO renovated 16 schools in the governorates of Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Basra and launched two emergency education projects to provide secondary education for 14,500 internally displaced and 4,500 Syrian refugees.

61. Under the shelter cluster, the infrastructure facilities in Dawodia Camp in Dohuk and Barjinja Camp in Sulaymaniyah were handed over to the local authorities in May. They host 4,500 and 750 internally displaced persons respectively. UNHCR continued to provide shelter for 73,725 internally displaced

persons in nine camps across Iraq and to build two new camps and completed the rehabilitation of 255 collective centres and 8,046 family shelter units. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme finalized the first analytical report on the Yezidi community's housing and land property issues and designed a programme to address those issues with returnees.

62. Under the health cluster, UNFPA provided psychosocial support services and reproductive health equipment and supplies to over 2,000 women and girl victims of gender and sexual-based violence and trained 260 health-care workers in 76 maternity units and 119 primary health-care facilities. IOM facilitated access to primary health care for 16,380 internally displaced persons and offered direct health care through mobile and static health clinics. From 24 to 28 May, UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health marked national polio immunization days, during which over 5.6 million children below the age of five were vaccinated. In May 2015, Iraq was removed from the list of polio-infected countries.

63. In support of the emergency social protection floor, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to 1,517 vulnerable internally displaced families across Iraq. IOM facilitated livelihood and small business creation through the provision of 614 in-kind grants to 1,071 internally displaced persons and 154 refugees; 614 business, vocational and on-the-job training sessions to 401 internally displaced persons and 318 refugees; and 13 essential infrastructure projects, which benefited 5,844 internally displaced persons, 8,130 refugees and 17,854 host community residents.

64. Under the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster, UNICEF provided access to clean water to over 78,000 recently displaced people from Anbar governorate and affected host communities. UNDP, in partnership with the Iraqi authorities and non-governmental organizations, provided job skills training and cash grants to 14,000 internally displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host communities to promote entrepreneurship and job creation.

65. To support integration between internally displaced persons and host communities, IOM, with the support of the European Union, trained 200 border control officials on the integration of displaced persons and returnees, property dispute resolution and border management systems to combat irregular migration. Furthermore, IOM conducted assessments on labour migration and trafficking in persons and facilitated discussions on the community policy concept among police, civil society actors and community groups.

66. UNESCO continued to call for the protection of cultural heritage and issued a joint statement with UNAMI on 21 May to that effect. On 28 May, the General Assembly unanimously adopted its resolution 69/281 on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq.

67. During the reporting period, the humanitarian operation continued to face funding constraints. On 4 June, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, and my Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs launched a new humanitarian response plan at the European Parliament. The plan targets 5.6 million vulnerable Iraqis with essential, life-saving support over the next six months. Major efforts are also under way to secure funding for stabilization and reconstruction in newly recaptured areas. UNDP is also leading the establishment of the Funding Facility for Immediate

Stabilization and early recovery to channel resources to priorities identified by the local rapid assessment carried out by local authorities in liberated areas.

68. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to assist 249,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. WFP conducted a food security and vulnerability assessment in all refugee camps in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. WFP distributed in-kind food or vouchers to over 104,000 refugees in nine camps and UNFPA provided health-care equipment and supplies to 40 primary health-care facilities in refugee camps and non-camp settings and training for health-care workers. In coordination with UNHCR, IOM distributed seasonal non-food items to 42,900 refugees. A UNDP feasibility study to transform refugee camps into more sustainable settlements is in progress.

69. During the reporting period, development activities in Iraq have been ongoing but constrained owing to the unstable security situation and focus on humanitarian response. UNICEF continued the national consultation process to finalize the draft of a national child protection policy in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. On 5 May, UNDP and the authorities of Basra signed a flagship agreement, the Basra Compact, aimed at strengthening participatory and accountable governance and reviving economic activity in the governorate. In June, the United Nations Environment Programme launched the national programme to combat sand and dust storms to reduce the recurrence of sand and dust storms in Iraq.

F. Security and operational issues

70. The United Nations is no closer to concluding a status-of-mission agreement for UNAMI with the Government of Iraq. The absence of such an agreement continues to hamper the effectiveness of United Nations operations. Cumbersome entry and exit procedures for United Nations personnel continue to affect, in particular, the rotation and deployment of the United Nations Guard Units.

71. The unpredictable security environment affected UNAMI directly on 26 April when a UNAMI national staff member was abducted by unidentified gunmen in Baquba, Diyala. Despite the volatile security environment in Iraq, especially in Anbar governorate, United Nations operations continue under regularly revised security plans. The security environment in Erbil and Kirkuk is continually monitored owing to their relative proximity to hostilities. The security situation in Basra, specifically crime rates and civil unrest, is also under constant monitoring for changes significant enough to affect the United Nations posture in southern Iraq.

72. Since my previous report, the United Nations strategic assessment for Iraq, including the United Nations Headquarters strategic assessment mission to Iraq conducted from 21 to 29 April, has been completed through the consultative process under the umbrella of the Iraq Integrated Task Force. Based on an overview of the current situation in Iraq as a point of departure, as well as extensive consultation with the Iraqi authorities and key national and international partners on the ground, the strategic assessment mission report endeavoured to look beyond the current crisis and to provide recommendations for United Nations strategy and configuration in Iraq in the next several years. Some key recommendations resulting from the strategic assessment are outlined in paragraphs 80 to 82 in section IV below.

IV. Observations

73. The path to securing peace and stability in Iraq continues to be fraught with challenges. ISIL has demonstrated that it is far from being defeated. Gains achieved by the Iraqi security forces remain fragile. The setback to Iraq's counter-terrorism efforts following the capture of Ramadi by ISIL highlighted the urgency with which the Government must, inter alia, scale up financial and military support to local authorities and communities to empower them to take greater responsibility for recapturing territory from ISIL. The Government must also continue to consolidate its campaign against ISIL with a strong role for the popular mobilization forces and Sunni volunteers. All elements of the campaign must be under the Government's command and control and full accountability should be a norm while it continues to implement measures to restructure the country's security and military institutions.

74. I welcome the commitment of the Government of Iraq to find ways to promote inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation. Fostering a spirit of national unity will be one of the most effective means of countering extremist and violent ideology in Iraq. While various proposals and initiatives to that end have been discussed, time is of the essence. I therefore call upon Iraq's political leaders to accelerate the adoption of a national reconciliation framework that enjoys broad political and communal support, expedite the implementation of the national political agreement and ministerial programme, and adopt without delay legislation to support the national reconciliation process. The United Nations will continue to make every effort to assist and support the Government and the people of Iraq in these endeavours.

75. I urge both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to continue to adhere to the oil and revenue-sharing agreement of 2 December 2014. It is vital that both sides continue to exercise good faith and understanding. The partnership between the two is essential to overcoming the current threat to Iraq's unity and integrity posed by ISIL. This spirit of cooperation should also be conducive to more tangible steps in solving all other pending issues in a comprehensive, fair and constitutional manner. Solving these long-standing issues in a constructive manner will be crucial to ensuring lasting stability and social cohesion in areas retaken from ISIL.

76. The humanitarian consequences of the current conflict in Iraq are enormous and beyond the power of the Government, which urgently requires the continuous assistance of the international community. Nearly 25 per cent of the country's population is estimated to require humanitarian assistance, including close to 3 million internally displaced persons, making the Iraq crisis one of the most complex humanitarian emergencies in the world. Humanitarian agencies and partners continue to work around the clock in support of the Government of Iraq to provide life-saving assistance to the displaced. However, stocks are running low and funds are almost depleted. In the coming weeks, unless funding is received, 60 per cent of programmes supported by humanitarian partners will be curtailed or shut down. Food rations have been reduced and the food pipeline is breaking, with front-line health-care facilities beginning to shut down in May and emergency supplies being exhausted on a monthly basis. The impact of this on the victims of the violence will be catastrophic. I therefore appeal to Iraq's partners to urgently contribute to the United Nations humanitarian response plan for Iraq. I wish to thank the Government of Kuwait for its generous pledge of $200 million and the

European Union for its generous donation of 25 million euros to the appeal during the reporting period and express my hope that more contributions will follow.

77. The Government must continue to implement measures to ensure the return of the displaced to their places of origin in areas retaken from ISIL. This includes establishing law and order in those areas, clearing them of mines and other explosive remnants, restoring public services as soon as possible and rebuilding basic infrastructure. To that end, I warmly welcome the Government's decision to expedite the training of local police to restore civilian responsibility for security and the rule of law in the retaken areas and to disburse funds for demining and clearance of explosive remnants in those areas.

78. I am appalled by the ongoing killing, kidnapping, rape and torture of Iraqis by ISIL, as well as its recruitment and use of children and systematic destruction of irreplaceable cultural heritage. I am also dismayed by the ongoing targeting of minority communities and their cultural patrimony and of those who oppose or are suspected of opposing ISIL's ideology. Some of these acts may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. All those who have committed or are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights must be held accountable. I urge the Government of Iraq and the international community to work towards ensuring that all perpetrators are brought to justice. All parties to the ongoing conflict must respect human rights and abide by all applicable obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

79. The relocation of the remaining Camp Hurriya residents to safe and secure locations outside Iraq remains the only durable and sustainable solution. Regretfully, progress is painfully slow. Moreover, funding for the United Nations ongoing efforts is set to expire in the coming months. Without further funding, human rights monitoring and UNHCR activities will cease. I therefore appeal to Member States to contribute to the funding of United Nations projects and work together with the United Nations, and more specifically, with my Special Adviser, Jane Holl Lute, to expedite the relocation of the Camp's residents outside Iraq.

80. As mentioned in paragraph 72 above, the strategic assessment for Iraq resulted in a number of recommendations that I have endorsed. While the current mandate of UNAMI would benefit from some streamlining, it is important that any changes to the mandate be made in full consultation with the Government of Iraq in order to complement its priorities. Any changes to the United Nations presence in Iraq should also be made gradually, taking into consideration the security situation on the ground and available resources, as well as the comparative advantages of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Government and the people of Iraq. Similarly, it would be beneficial for the Council to authorize the Secretariat to determine and periodically review more detailed priorities for the United Nations in consultation with the Government of Iraq, taking also into consideration the security situation on the ground and available resources, and to advise the Council accordingly.

81. Based on the strategic assessment recommendations, the UNAMI mandate in the forthcoming period should be focused on the following main areas: (a) political good offices, including on national reconciliation, developing a national vision and strategy for the resolution of disputed internal boundaries, the rule of law, security sector reform and regional engagement on Iraq; (b) facilitating the establishment of conditions conducive to principled humanitarian assistance, providing support to the

relevant authorities in ensuring the protection of civilians, and the overall pursuance of the development agenda in Iraq; (c) human rights and the rule of law, including transitional justice and legislative reform with additional advisory support in the areas of police, justice and corrections; and (d) advisory and/or support role, as appropriate, in such specialized areas as electoral support, security sector reform, mine action (including improvised explosive device threat mitigation), institutional capacity development, stabilization activities in the areas reclaimed from ISIL, child protection and youth and gender policies and best practices.

82. At this time, some elements of the current UNAMI mandate could be phased out, including the coordination of economic recovery, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the census and constitutional review. Advisory support by the United Nations in respect of these areas could be provided to the Government of Iraq either through mandated United Nations agencies, funds and programmes or ad hoc mechanisms, when and if required. Some of these elements could also be added to the UNAMI mandate at a later time, should the conditions for their implementation improve or if the Government of Iraq so requests.

83. It is clear that the challenges facing Iraq and the region are of a vast and unprecedented nature and require regional cooperation and support. I call upon all members of the international community to continue to increase their support for Iraq and to work collectively to face these challenges. Without a concerted international effort, the threats to Iraq today will likely have far-reaching implications for the region and beyond.

84. Lastly, I wish to extend my appreciation to my Special Representative, Ján Kubiš, and the staff of the United Nations in Iraq for their relentless and courageous efforts in supporting and assisting the Government and people of Iraq, particularly at this time of unprecedented crisis. At the same time, I strongly urge the Iraqi authorities to redouble efforts to secure the release of the abducted UNAMI national staff member. I trust that international partners, including Iraq's neighbours in the region, will continue to support my Special Representative in the implementation of his mandate.